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EVOLUTIONARY FAITH AND MODERN DOUBTS¹

I VISIT Canada for the first time in delightful circumstances. After a period of dangerous isolation, intercourse between the centres of scientific development is once more beginning, and I am grateful to the American Association for this splendid opportunity of renewing friendship with my western colleagues in genetics, and of coming into even a temporary partnership in the great enterprise which they have carried through with such extraordinary success.

In all that relates to the theme which I am about to consider we have been passing through a period of amazing activity and fruitful research. Coming here after a week in close communion with the wonders of Columbia University, I may seem behind the times in asking you to devote an hour to the old topic of evolution. But though that subject is no longer in the forefront of debate, I believe it is never very far from the threshold of our minds, and it was with pleasure that I found it appearing in conspicuous places in several parts of the program of this meeting.

Standing before the American Association, it is not unfit that I should begin with a personal reminiscence. In 1883 I first came to the United States to study the development of *Balanoglossus* at the Johns Hopkins summer laboratory, then at Hampton, Va. This creature had lately been found there in an easily accessible place. With a magnanimity, that on looking back I realize was superb, Professor W. K. Brooks had given me permission to investigate it, thereby handing over to a young stranger one of the prizes which in this age

¹ Delivered before the American Association for the Advancement of Science on Wednesday evening, December 28, in the Convocation Hall of the University of Toronto.